

Arlington Cultural Commission Meeting Minutes (as approved 4.3.14)
March 6, 2014

7:30 pm, Cutter House Gallery

ATTENDING: Adria Arch, David Ardito, Barbara Costa, Stephanie Marlin-Curiel

GUEST: (8:15 – 9:15 pm) Eliza Burden (Arlington Cultural Council)

1. Election of new Recording Secretary: Postponed. Barbara will record Minutes today; Stephanie is Chair for today's meeting.

2. Unanimous approval of minutes from 2.12.14 meeting, as well as past meeting minutes not yet approved (6.6.13, 9.13.13)

3. Discussion of report presentation to Board of Selectmen

Stephanie distributed hard copy of Report to Town, as submitted March 6; to be presented to BoS at March 10 meeting. Town Counsel has reviewed the report positively. We need to promote the Public Art Guidelines (Addendum A to the Report). We will need to clarify with the Town who will be the agent for the agreement re public art on public property. Noted document that Adria had circulated, How To Maintain Public Art, which should be part of our bible; this includes recommendations for a conservator in the Town, which we will need to address with the Town. Names of possible advisors on this were mentioned. We hope we can follow up on Arts & Culture Liaison posting after BoS presentation; so far we have promise from Town Manager of a room and desk for the A&C Liaison from the Town.

4. Guest: Eliza Burden, Arlington Cultural Council (ACC)

Eliza noted today's Arlington Advocate Note from the Editor (Eileen Kennedy) re arts organizations in Town. Discussion of how to promote arts and culture in Town, how can Arlington Cultural Council and Cultural Commission work together? As well as ATED, ACA, APA, etc.

Every three years Mass Cultural Council mandates that local cultural councils get the pulse of the Town, hence Arlington Alive event two years ago. ACC is holding their annual reception to honor grant recipients April 7 (6-7:30 pm, at Arlington Friends of Drama), may also inspire further discussion and collaborations across arts groups, including fundraising, especially grantwriting.

Eliza had attended the Non-Profit Networking event sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. We discussed need to get ATED involved, positive impact on businesses; we will invite Jen Tripp (Chamber) to the next Culture Commission meeting (Adria will reach out to her). Eliza suggested partnering in some way with Chamber of Commerce. Discussed ACC funding priorities, roles of ACC vs Cultural Commission (merge)?, other funding sources.

For April Cultural Commission meeting, we will research the following:

- Our Town (NEA) – Barbara to do
- Adams Grant – Dave to do
- NEFA (limited to public art) – Adria to do
- Cultural District (walkable area with concentration of arts and culture opportunities) – Stephanie to do

5. May 8 Arts Summit Agenda and Promotion planning

Possible topics/themes: grantwriting; sponsored art walk as suggested by Margy Rydzynski (though we don't do events); work on projects together as an arts community; Arlington Alive (logo, brand, website) as a possible umbrella branding for arts in Arlington; discussion of role of Arts & Culture Liaison; how do we map our relationship with each other. Calendar needs to be resolved.

6. Senior Center/Jefferson Cutter Rental Policy regarding non-profits

At 2.10.14 BoS meeting, when objections to the policy were voiced as being hard for small non-profits, it was determined by the Town Manager that the rental fees be eliminated for the time being.

7. Discuss Advisory Board possibilities – No action taken yet, but names of individuals to add to ongoing list of potential advisors include Amy Speare, who is arts-oriented and successfully raised funds for Arlington Education Foundation, and for Winfred Rembert residency.

NEXT CULTURAL COMMISSION MEETING: April 3, 2014
(7:30 pm, Cutter House ground floor gallery space)

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Costa